



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Elmira, Michigan



Series of Fish and Wildlife Service photos depicting Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFI) activities: (Top Row, Lt. to Rt.) Lake trout eggs are received each fall from several brood stock stations to support a large fish production program; Wayne Talo and Scott Rozanski sample count young lake trout to estimate growth and determine feed rations; A crew referred to as "fin clippers" mark yearling lake trout prior to release in one of the Great Lakes; (Middle Row) Paul Haver crowds fish that will be loaded into a transport tank; Distribution trucks transport lake trout to the offshore stocking vessel, M/V Togque; Bob Bergstrom (Marine Engineer), Mike Perry (Togque Captain), and Bob Petersen explain loading of fish on the Togque to the new vessel design team; (Bottom Row) Jim and Clare Wisman volunteered their expertise to develop the hatchery's web site; Hatchery staff and partners participate in Jordan River NFI's first annual "Hatchery Fest"; Bob Peterson educates a future fisherman.

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (NFH) was established in 1962 and began operation in December, 1963. The hatchery is located on 116 acres adjacent to the Jordan River in Antrim County in Northwest, Lower Michigan. The hatchery was founded under the Coordination Act 48 Statute 410 of March, 1934. The mission of the Jordan River NFH is to rear lake trout for native lake trout rehabilitation efforts in lakes Huron and Michigan. In FY 2004, Jordan NFH reared and released a total of 1,919,043 yearling lake trout at selected sites on the lakes. Water sources for the hatchery come from Five and Six Tile Springs, which provide approximately 5,000 gallons per minute.

All lake trout must be marked prior to release into the Great Lakes in order to differentiate the hatchery fish from naturally reproduced fish. Six temporary employees complete the coded wire tagging process and 12 temporary employees complete the fin clipping process. The hatchery provides leadership in the marking, tagging, and stocking of lake trout in the multi-jurisdictional waters of lakes Huron and Michigan.

The Great Lakes stocking and hatchery product evaluation vessel (M/V Togue) and crew are supervised and scheduled out of the Jordan River NFH. It has been in operation since 1989, after being retrofitted to distribute lake trout to offshore reefs in the Great Lakes. Staff includes Ship Operator Michael Perry and Marine Engineer Robert Bergstrom. A new vessel, M/V Spencer F. Baird, is currently under construction in Louisiana. Plans are to put the new vessel into service in 2006.



-USFWS

M/V Togue: The Fish and Wildlife Service's offshore stocking and hatchery product evaluation vessel for the Upper Great Lakes.



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Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

Left to Right: Wayne Talo, Tim Smigielski, Bob Petersen, Paul Haver, John Johnston, Clarice Beckner, Denise Johnston, Norma Sparks, Rick Westerhof

Jordan River NFH has been a popular visitor attraction since the hatchery was dedicated in 1964. An estimated 15,000 visitors enjoy the many interpretive displays annually, and hatchery tours are provided to numerous groups.

Environmental, natural resource, and conservation education are major focus areas at the hatchery. This past September 2004, Jordan River NFH held its first annual "Hatchery Fest", an event designed to foster partnerships with local communities, interest groups, non-governmental organizations, as well as state and other Federal agencies. This tremendously successful event certainly strengthened the public image of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Northern Michigan.

Jordan River NFH is currently staffed by ten dedicated employees. With its experienced staff and leadership, it is certain that Jordan River NFH will succeed in fulfilling the mission and goals of the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes region.

For detailed information about the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, contact the office at (231) 584-2461 or visit the website at:
http://midwest.fws.gov/jordan_river/